

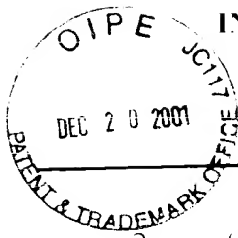
EXHIBIT A

A MARKED UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS AMENDED

IN THE AMENDMENT FILED ON DECEMBER 20, 2001

IN U.S. APPLICATION SERIAL NO.: 08/444,994

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 6923-054



2. (fourth Amended) An assay for identifying a substance that inhibits the interaction of an influenza virus nucleoprotein with a host cell protein comprising:

- (a) contacting [a protein] an influenza virus nucleoprotein or a peptide fragment of the influenza virus nucleoprotein [comprising the binding site of the host cell protein] with a host cell protein or a peptide fragment of the host cell protein [comprising the binding site of the host cell protein], under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit [the binding and formation of] the influenza virus nucleoprotein or influenza virus nucleoprotein peptide fragment to bind to and form a complex with the host cell protein or a peptide fragment of the host cell protein, in the presence of a test substance, wherein the peptide fragment of the influenza virus nucleoprotein comprises the binding site of the host cell protein and wherein the peptide fragment of the host cell protein comprises the binding site of the influenza virus nucleoprotein; and
- (b) detecting the formation of a complex, [in which the ability of a test substance to inhibit the interaction between an influenza virus NP and the host cell protein is indicated by a decrease in complex formation as compared to the amount of complex formed in the absence of the test substance] wherein a decrease in the complex detected as compared to the amount of complex detected in the absence of the substance indicates that a substance that inhibits the interaction between the influenza virus nucleoprotein or influenza virus nucleoprotein peptide fragment and the host cell protein or peptide fragment of the host cell protein is identified.

4. (amended) The assay of Claim [3] 2 in which the host cell protein is NPI-

2.

5. (amended) The assay of Claim [3] 2 in which the host cell protein is NPI-
3.

6. (amended) The assay of Claim [3] 2 in which the host cell protein is NPI-
4.

7. (amended) The assay of Claim [3] 2 in which the host cell protein is NPI-
5.

8. (amended) The assay of Claim [3] 2 in which the host cell protein is NPI-
6.

11. (amended) The assay of Claim [1.] 2[, or 9] in which [one protein or peptide of the complex] the influenza virus nucleoprotein or peptide fragment of the influenza virus nucleoprotein is immobilized[, and the other protein or peptide is labeled with a signal- generating compound] on a solid surface.

12. (amended) The assay of Claim 11 in which an immobilized antibody is used to anchor the immobilized [protein or peptide] influenza virus nucleoprotein or peptide fragment of the influenza virus nucleoprotein.

14. (amended) The assay of Claim 11 in which the [protein or peptide substrate] influenza virus nucleoprotein or peptide fragment of the influenza virus nucleoprotein is immobilized prior to the reaction so that the reaction is conducted in a solid-liquid phase.

15. (amended) The assay of Claim [1.] 2[, or 9] in which the proteins or peptides are contacted in a liquid phase to form a complex which is separated from the liquid phase at the end of the reaction.